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Mother of 'Spy': Not My Son

By RALPH BLUMENTELD

"That's not my boy," Mrs. Thomas Kantola said with conviction.

She then went on to deny firmly that the John Smith currently making Moscow headlines as an alleged CIA defector was her son, John Discoe Smith.

She gets letters from her son "all the time," and received one postmarked Rome "within a week," Mrs. Kantola said at her home in Braintree, Mass.

"He works for the government—I can't say more."

The State Dept., acknowledging that it once employed a John Discoe Smith, also doubts that he's the same man writing "I Was a Spy for the CIA" in the Moscow newspaper Literary Gazette.

That Smith describes himself as a Quincy, Mass., native who worked for the State Dept. and CIA before defecting to the Soviet Union and becoming a Russian citizen.

State Dept. press officer Robert McCloskey said a John Dis-

coe Smith of Quincy, Mass., was a \$5,585-a-year communications clerk when he resigned from the State Dept. in 1959 after nine years service.

The department's last contact with him was in 1960 when he was issued a passport, said McCloskey, and "we have nothing on his present whereabouts."

McCloskey's Smith would now be 41. Like the Moscow Smith, he was married to a former State Dept. secretary named Mary Frances London, now reported living in Quincy.

Mrs. Kantola's son attended Thayer Academy in Braintree, worked in a Quincy shipyard and then joined the Navy. So did the Moscow Smith—or so his current memoirs say.

McCloskey said the State Dept.'s Smith was assigned to the U. S. embassy in New Delhi in 1954. The Moscow Smith says he was there too, spying on the Indian Defense Ministry.

"There is no reason to think he was ever employed by the CIA," said McCloskey.

He also said the State Dept. knows of no John Smith who

has defected to the Soviet Union, but conceded someone by that name may have.

Leonard Kantola, Mrs. Kantola's son by her second marriage, said he has not heard from his half-brother for a number of years.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Moscow said: "The only John Smith I know of was subverted by Pocahontas."

The CIA had no comment.